

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification is amended and claims 1-3, 6-12 and 15-20 are amended. Support for amended claims 1-3, 6-8, 10-12, 15-17, 19 and 20 may be found in the original specification at, for example, paragraphs [0005] and [0006], and paragraphs [0031]-[0037]. Support for amended claims 9 and 18 may be found in the original specification at, for example, paragraph [0062]. No new matter is added.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' representative by Examiner Liu and Examiner Patrice at the interview held December 5, 2007 are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicants' record of the interview.

Objection to the Specification

The Patent Office alleges that the title is not descriptive.

The title is amended to replace "Workflow System and Method" with "Integrating a Document Management System with a Workflow System and Method," and is therefore descriptive.

As such, withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claims 1-3, 9-12 and 18-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"Subjects"

The Patent Office alleges that the term "subjects" in claims 1, 10 and 19 is unclear and vague.

As agreed upon in the interview, the term "subjects" is replaced with the term "subjects of interest" where needed to overcome the rejection.

"Notification Targets"

The Patent Office alleged that the term "notification targets" in claims 2, 11 and 20 is unclear and vague.

As agreed upon in the interview, further defining the term "subjects" (above) overcomes the rejection to the term "notification targets" as the term "notification targets" is not unclear or vague.

"Physical Process"

The Patent Office alleged that the term "physical process" in claims 3 and 12 is a relative term.

Claims 3 and 12 are amended to further define a "physical process" to be a "process associated with a user that performs one or more tasks."

"Operating Behaviors"

The Patent Office alleged that the term "operating behaviors" in claims 9 and 18 is a relative term.

Claims 9 and 18 are amended to further define that the operating behaviors are "very reliable," "reliable," "unreliable," and "very unreliable."

Conclusion

As detailed above, claims 1-3, 9-12 and 18-20 are clear and definite in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Thus, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 1, 10 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In particular, the Patent Office alleges that the features of claims 1, 10 and 19 could be done in software alone. However, claims 1, 10 and 19 each recite a process associated with a user that performs one or more tasks to produce one or more documents.

Thus, as claims 1, 10 and 19 are not merely done on software alone, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by EP 1111518 ("Arragui"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claim 1

Arragui fails to teach or suggest a document management system, including at least two workflow modules producing one or more documents that are published to one or more of the document repositories, wherein one of the at least two workflow modules is associated with a user that performs one or more tasks to produce the one or more documents, as recited in claim 1.

Arragui merely discloses producing a document by use of a printer (alleged workflow module). In contrast, claim 1 requires the association of a user that performs one or more tasks to produce a document. That is, the workflow module of claim 1 is not merely a device such as a printer that produces a document, it is a process that involves a user and tasks that are executed by the user. Thus, nowhere does Arragui teach or suggest the association of a user within a process to produce a document. As such, Arragui fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claim 1.

Claims 10 and 19

Further, claim 10 is directed to a method for operating a document management system and claim 19 is directed to an article of manufacture for operating a document management system. However, as claims 10 and 19 also require one of the at least two

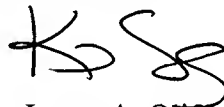
workflow modules to be associated with a user that performs one or more tasks to produce the one or more documents, as recited in claim 1, for at least the reasons discussed above with respect to claim 1, Arragui fails to teach or suggest each and every feature of claims 10 and 19.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 1-20 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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